

ORIENTEERING FOR BEGINNERS: MAP & COMPASS BASICS IN RMNP

MAY 16, 2020

**COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: S5012
FEE: \$40 PER ADULT AGES 16 AND OLDER**



**Rocky
Mountain
Conservancy**

FIELD INSTITUTE

INSTRUCTOR: PEGGY ELLIS

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**LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute & Conference Center
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado**

TIME: 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended for the recreational hiker who has little or no experience reading a topographic map or working with a compass. Topics to be covered include: map vintage, next generation of U.S. topography maps by U.S.G.S., map symbology, reading contour lines, recognizing landforms, calculating percent and angle of slope, compass components, taking a compass bearing and correcting for magnetic declination, using a compass to point yourself in an arbitrary direction and correcting for magnetic declination, overland navigation via map and compass, and triangulation. All material is provided, and compasses will be available for loan. The class will combine indoor instruction with outdoor exercise at nearby locations.

INSTRUCTOR’S BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.RMConservancy.org):

Margaret (Peggy) spent 25 years with the U.S. Geological Survey. During the past several years, she assisted with and then taught map, compass, and GPS classes. After retirement, she started her own business teaching these classes to the general public. She taught classes at Bass Pro Shop in Denver for 8 years and she occasionally teaches classes in several parks around the west side of Denver. Peggy studied geology in college and enjoys hiking and viewing geologic features.

COURSE LEVEL: II

Short-distance walks throughout the day primarily on level terrain.

EXPECTATIONS:

Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM	Map reading
1:45 PM - 3:30 PM	Compass instruction at an outdoor location to be determined
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Wrap-up in classroom

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:

- The instructor will provide maps, compasses for loan, straightedges, clipboards, and handout material.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Hiking shoes
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Brimmed hat
- Plenty of drinking water (1-2 quarts)
- **Be prepared for possible cold and wet weather**

WHAT TO BRING:

- Snacks, energy bars, **WATER**
- A small “Rite in the Rain” field book is optional, but a great tool for the backcountry enthusiast
- Pen/pencil
- Small daypack

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

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|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▪ Raingear | ▪ Map and compass | ▪ Flashlight or headlamp |
| ▪ Sunglasses and sunscreen | ▪ Candles | ▪ Matches or other fire starter |
| ▪ Pocketknife | ▪ First-aid kit | ▪ Extra layers of clothing |
| ▪ Snacks and water | | |

Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Staying Found by June Fleming

Wilderness Navigation by Bob & Mike Burns

REFUND POLICY:

Cancellations received at least 14 days prior to the start of a class will qualify for a refund minus a cancellation fee of \$25 per participant for a one-day class, \$50 for a multi-day class, \$5 per kid’s class and \$15 per half-day class or bus tour seat. Registration money transferred to another class will be subject to a \$10 switch fee. Cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the start of a class or bus tour will not generate a refund. If the Field Institute cancels a class, every effort will be made to place the participant in another class; otherwise, a full refund will be given.